

WASHINGTON, DC- Today, Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) announced that a grant of \$200,000 has been awarded to WestCare California, Inc. These funds are being awarded through the Department of Health and Human Services' Transitional Living Program. With these funds, WestCare is required to provide youth with stable, safe living accommodations and services that help them develop the skills necessary to move to independence.

"The best thing we can do to help at-risk children and young adults is to provide them with a safe and secure environment for them to grow into prosperous adults," said Costa. "WestCare helps thousands of Valley residents every year, and I know they will be able to help many more with these funds."

In 1988, Congress created the Transitional Living Program in response to a growing number of homeless young adults. Today, this program funds organizations and shelters that serve and protect runaway, homeless, missing, and sexually exploited children and young adults. The program also provides pregnant or parenting youth with parenting skills, including child development, family budgeting, health and nutrition, and other skills to promote their long-term economic independence in order to ensure the well-being of their children.

WestCare California, a Fresno-based, non-profit organization, has been providing the full continuum of substance abuse and addiction treatment services, including a broad array of health and human services, in community-based residential and outpatient treatment environments for 34 years. WestCare California's 250 dedicated staff provides care to 27,000 clients annually at 14 sites located in Fresno, Bakersfield, Corona, Coalinga, Sacramento, Hanford, Avenal, and Corcoran.